Process for extracting 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KGA) from a polar, preferably aqueous, solvent

Abstract

The present invention relates to a process for extracting 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KGA) from a polar, preferably aqueous, solvent, preferably from a solvent which comprises a mixture of ascorbic acid and 2-keto-L-gulonic acid, by means of liquid/liquid extraction using an extractant which comprises a tertiary amine and a polar organic diluent. The process of the invention preferably also comprises steps for back-extraction of the KGA and recycling of the extractant. The present invention likewise relates to a process for preparing ascorbic acid from KGA and isolating the prepared ascorbic acid.